

higher than the source from which it is drawn.

God is the source of all life. The true teacher must draw his life from God, who Himself has made it possible, thro Christ, for one to do so. Christ himself was more than a teacher; he was a Life Giver, John 10:10; Christianity is itself more than a system of laws and truths; it is a new life.

So, FIRST, the teacher should be a Christian. None but Christians should be engaged as teachers in the Sunday-school. The results of the violation of this principle are to be seen in the number of men and women who not only are not Christians, but indifferent and even skeptical to the church. We cannot gather grapes from thorn trees, or figs from thistle bushes.

(a.) He should be a Christian in *belief*; otherwise he will attempt to lead others to believe what he himself, practically, does not believe. It will be a case of the blind leading the blind. He is a deceiver who would ask others to believe what he will not or can not.

(b.) He should be a Christian in *experience*. It is one thing to know *of* and *about* God, his wisdom, power and goodness; of Christ and the Holy Spirit; it is quite another to know them thro one's own experience. "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." The best commentary on God's word is the life of the believer. The true teacher is one who experiences communion with God and comes to relate such experiences. God must first speak to the teacher before the teacher can speak for God.

(c.) He should be a Christian in *example*. The example of the teacher can not be measured. With the potency of example all are familiar. Imitativeness is a marked characteristic of childhood, and even in the periods following.

The following story is told by Dr. Schauffler: A young girl applied for membership in one of the churches of New York City. Upon being asked what called her attention to such a course, she replied: "It was my Sunday-school teacher's behavior in church. I sat just behind her, and when I saw her reverent and earnest attention to the whole service, it was impressed on my heart that the things which she loved must be worth loving, and I began to listen myself."

Teaching cannot be higher than the life of the teacher. But this need not be a *low* life. Provision has been made by which an *abundant* life is possible. John 10:10.

(2.) An *intellectual preparation*. The teacher's work being largely with the Bible he should know how to use it. No teach-

er should go to his class without a Bible in hand, and, if possible, there should be one in the hands of each scholar. Individual ownership of Bibles should be encouraged even among the smaller scholars. The teacher ought to be a *live* student of the Bible. He ought to know his Bible. It is the one book with which he must work. He must study it.

(a.) He must study it to be taught by it. He must study it *carefully* and *prayerfully*. A *spiritual* character is indispensable to the rightful interpretation of the Scriptures. The culture of the heart is the greatest thing in Bible study.

The Bible is God's Book, and God alone can make it plain. The student of the Bible must needs pray much. Martin Luther always went to the Lord in prayer with his Bible difficulties. Prof. White, of Moody Bible Institute, said to his class last April, "If you find knotty points or difficult passages get on your knees." Says Prof. Torrey, "The Bible is the Holy Spirit's Book, and he alone can open it." It is said that a Christian upon his knees before God can see further than the skeptic thro his telescope.

The teacher must also realize his incapacity to understand the things of God. The following from Dr. A. T. Pierson, on I Cor. 2:11, is very suggestive, and we quote it in full: "The argument (on the above reference) is that only the spirit of man is absolutely master of the man's mind and thoughts, and only as the spirit of the man understands the man, comprehends him, *so only the Spirit of God can understand the things of God*. An external observer cannot read perfectly the Divine Mind. For man to understand God would imply equality with God. . . . Therefore, even the apparent contradictions of truth in the word of God, may be the indications of a higher mind. These contradictions result from the lower point of observation and the lower measure of capacity."

The true teacher, if he have doubts, will not carry them to his class. If he is perplexed (and who is not) over the results of the so-called "Higher Critics," he will not tell it to his class. Rather will he speak to them of God's love and God's purpose which are to be found on every page. Such teaching as this is needed to-day. There is a decadence in the study of the Word to day, and the great number of people unchurched, unsaved, and the lack of faith and works in the church are the results.

A quickening to last must come thro the Word and be fed by constant study of the Word. The more one loves the Scriptures, the stronger will be his faith. To bring about this, it must be begun in the

Sunday-school. They had rather be called "Bible Schools." The accessions from the school to the church are increasing, and if the work of the school has been well done, the church of to-morrow will be stronger than the church of to-day.

The influence of contact with a live teacher is immeasurable. So, at last, if these results are to be achieved, the teacher in the Sunday-school is the "initiator."

In our next we shall speak of the making of this preparation.

Pres. 23rd Dist. Ind. S. S. Association.

Sisters' S. C. E.

WILLIAMSTOWN, OHIO.

Dear Sisters of the Christian Endeavor:—I come to the front to have a little chat with you through the EVANGELIST and let you know that we are still alive. The S. S. C. E. of the Brethren Church of Williamstown, Ohio, is prospering nicely, although our members are scattered, living as far as fifteen miles apart. I think we are doing well financially. Have all the work we can do, made over \$5.00 last month, but we read in I Peter 1:18, that we are not redeemed by silver and gold, but by the precious blood of Jesus. We should work for the financial benefit of the church but never neglect the spiritual welfare. I am sorry to say we neglected two devotional exercises in the last month. Some sisters were so industrious that they could not lay their work down. So it was neglected. Now when we think for one moment what Christ did for us, how he laid down his life for us that we through him might have everlasting life, let us therefore wear the world as a loose garment that we may drop it at any time. Let us ever keep Christ first and foremost and ever be hid behind the cross that the blood of Jesus may continually be dripping on us and cleansing us from all sin. I think the Sister's Society is a great help to the church both spiritually and temporally. May we be more earnest and zealous in the good work is my prayer.

Yours in Christ,

MRS. ALICE PARK.

MT. PLEASANT, PA.

I am delighted to announce through your worthy paper that the subscribers to the National S. S. C. E. Organizer's fund of 1895 have all paid their subscription and I take this means to acknowledge same. We sincerely thank all who have so nobly assisted us in our work. Our dear sister Laura Grossnickle has done such a grand work and the Brethren Church has and will continue to realize the benefit, Oh, for one hundred such workers like